



08/828560

STOP FOR EQUIPMENT POSITIONING

ABSTRACT

A stop for fixedly positioning equipment is provided. The stop comprises a body having an upstanding front ramp portion having opposing forwardly and rearwardly sloping surfaces for the passage of a wheel therealong, a rear ramp portion extending rearwardly from the rearwardly sloping surface. The rear ramp portion being of a height at least as great as the front ramp portion. A wheel receiving portion positioned between the front ramp portion and the rear ramp portion and interconnecting the front and rear ramp portions. Lateral wheel support elements attached to the body of the stop on the bottom floor of the stop and extending the length of the stop. A plurality of securing holes in the bottom floor of the stop.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

This invention relates to a stop to provide a method by which equipment can be stabilized in a fixed location.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART:

A number of types of chocks and stops for chocking the wheels of aircraft and motor vehicles have heretofore been provided. The devices used for that function have been more specifically designed for the use in immobilizing or arresting movement of vehicles along the ground, more particularly, aircraft and motor vehicles.

A problem which has not been solved by the chock construction previously employed is that of secure retention of commercial cooking equipment such that the equipment is located properly in a fixed location so that fire suppression systems will function as designed.

Equipment that comes with castor arrangements have sometimes been equipped with brakes which can be locked to apply a braking force to the castor wheel for deterring and preventing rotation of the wheel about its axle. However, such brakes are inadequate in the commercial cooking equipment setting as they do not provide a fixed location for the cooking equipment within the required area of the fire suppression system such that it will ensure that each time the cooking equipment is removed, it will be returned to the proper location from which it came.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A principle object of the invention is to provide a method by which commercial cooking equipment can be located in a fixed position.

Another object is to provide a stop for wheels that can be installed and positioned quickly and easily.

Another object is to provide a stop that ensures that the clearances required by the national fire prevention code or like codes are maintained.

Another object is to provide a stop which meets the sanitary requirements of the National Sanitary Foundation.

Another object is to provide a stop which is a reusable device that can be removed and relocated.

The foregoing objects can be accomplished by utilization of a stop for blocking the rolling movement of a wheel on equipment to prevent movement of the equipment. To this end, the stop comprises an integrally formed body having an upstanding ramped portion having opposing forwardly and rearwardly slopping surfaces for the passage of a wheel of equipment therealong. A recessed wheel reception portion positioned between the two ramped portions.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a stop for equipment positioning and is illustrated in the Figures and is broadly designated by the reference numeral 1. The stop is made of a rigid material and is of unibody construction. The entire structure may be washed or cleaned and meets the cleanliness standards set forth by the National Sanitary Foundation (NSF). The stop provides for exact positioning of equipment by immobilizing the wheels of equipment in conjunction with the securing of the stop by use of securing means. The inventions simplicity resides in ensuring that a wheel will be restrained within the stop during normal usage without the use of ties or securing means. The wheel is maintained within the stop wheel positioning area during normal use.

The stop has a body 1 that is adapted to receive different size wheels such as those present on a wide variety of equipment, especially kitchen equipment. The stop is also adaptable to hospital bedding and medical equipment. The preferred use is on a flat or level surface, but slight incline surfaces are possible. The stop is typically about (8-10) inches long and (2-4) inches wide. The stop comprises a front ramp 2 and rear ramp 3 portion, wheel support elements 4, and a wheel receiving area 5 portion located between the front and rear ramps and wheel support elements. The stops body 1 is preferably and generally of rectangular form and of low profile and adaptable to receive different size wheels such as those present on a wide variety of equipment. The middle portion of the stop has a wheel receiving portion 5 formed between wheel support elements 4, preferable parallel upright periphery walls or rails and of sufficient thickness and strength to supply a degree of rigidity to laterally support an equipment wheel as shown, and the frontwardly and rearwardly sloping ramp portions 2,3. As shown in Figure 2, the spacing between the wheel support elements 4 and ramp portions 2,3 is sufficient to receive the wheel of a castor in the receiving portion with its axle extending transversely of and substantially perpendicular to the wheel support elements 4 to afford slight clearance between the opposite sides of the wheel and the respectively adjacent support elements 4.

The rear ramp 3 portion confines the wheels from moving beyond the wheel receiving portion 4 after the wheel has passed over the front ramp 2.

Additionally, the stop has a substantially flat bottom ground engaging surface 6. As shown in figure 2 by the dotted outline of a wheel, the ramp portions 2,3 permit the passage of a wheel to be received in the wheel receiving portion 5.

The stop 1 may also include securing means 7 formed integral therewith extending forwardly and opposite in direction from the front and rear ramps 2,3. The securing means are designed to maintain a flush arrangement to mate with the engaging surface.

Figure 5 shows the preferred embodiment of the stop 8. This embodiment is provided with a rear ramp of greater inclination 3 thereby acting as an abutment to prevent further wheel movement axially therealong and over the rear ramp. The wheel support elements are defined by rail-line members 11 that extend from and are secured to the front and the rear of the stop and are structurally supported therealong by a plurality of beams 12 projecting from the upper surface of the stop and terminating at an integral with the rail-like members 11. A flared positioning aid 13 is provided to aid in the equipment wheel placement and projects outwardly and extends forward from the front ramp portion 2.

By this invention, the safety margin involved in meeting and maintaining placement tolerances and distances of equipment is enhanced. Cleanliness standards are easily achievable, especially in the preferred embodiment which make use of rails that allow easy removal of debris from the wheel receiving portion. Further, obstruction or adverse impact on other equipment, especially sensitive hospital tubing or apparatus, in the vicinity of the equipment being stabilized is minimized.

In the drawings and specification, there has been disclosed a preferred embodiment of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic sense only and not for the purpose of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.